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THE CASE

OF THE

BOOKSELLERS Trading beyond Sea,

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K. [illegible] Commons House of

Humbly offer'd to the Honourable Houſe of COMMONS.

WHereas in the Bill now depending before this Honourable Houſe for laying a Duty of 25 *l. per Cent.* upon all Paper imported, there is likewiſe a Clauſe for laying 25 *l. per Cent.* upon all Printed Books to be imported, over and above an Additional Duty lately impoſed upon all Foreign Books.

It is humbly conceived this Impoſition upon Foreign Books printed beyond Sea, will not raiſe any thing conſiderable to the King.

Conſidering that by the beſt Computation that can be made, the Value of Foreign Books imported, theſe late Years, doth not amount to above three thouſand Pounds *per annum.*

The Duty whereof at 25 *per Cent.* will raiſe but 750 *l.*

The *major* Part of which is imported by French Proteſtant Refugees for their poor Livelihood, who by this Impoſition will be made utterly incapable of doing any thing, and conſequently much leſſen the Revenue to the King.

Such Importation of Foreign Books can be no ways prejudicial to the Printers or Stationers of *England*, the Books Imported being the Works of Foreign Authors (and not of our own Country-men) or ſuch antient Books in Greek and Latin, *&c.* of curious Editions, which are not to be found in *England*, tho much deſired by our Nobility, Gentry and Clergy, and of great Uſe to both Univerſities, and for the Advancement of Learning in General. Whereas the ſaid Impoſition of 25 *per Cent.* upon ſo inconſiderable a Commodity as Foreign Printed Books, will hinder all ſuch Importation, to the great Diſcouragement of Learning, without any Benefit or Advantage to the King.

There might likewiſe be offer'd the great Uncertainty there is in diſpoſing and vending new Foreign Books, which before they are well known, are imported at great hazard by the Bookſellers, who generally have more than half the Books they import lie upon their Hands for ſeven Years, and at laſt become Waſte-Paper. And if they ſhould all be ſold, then 20 *per Cent.* Profit would not ariſe to the Importer, which is leſs than the intended Impoſition.

All which is humbly ſubmitted to the Great Wiſdom and Conſideration of this Honourable Houſe.